

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Jerry Harper



What do the Chicano Youth Center, Copley Family YMCA, La Familia Counseling, Long Beach

Boys and Girls Club, Mexican American Community Services Agency, Richmond PAL, Santa Monica PAL, and Watsonville Youth Services have in common?

Do you know that delinquency prevention and early intervention advocacy is mandated in the legal mission of the Youth Authority (YA)?

Are you aware of the Office of Prevention and Victims Services, Delinquency Prevention Division?

Who are these people and what do they do?

In this, the first *CYA Today* dedicated to delinquency prevention, these and many more questions will be answered.

Prevention and intervention are integral components of public safety and critical to the success of the juvenile justice system.

Historically, the YA was considered a leader in these areas and the Delinquency Prevention Division's (DPD) mission is to once again have us viewed in that light.

I want to clearly state my full support for the department's involvement in these activities and share what I have seen during my thirty plus

(See Harper, Page 2)

## Prevention (Division) Goes a Long Way

Thousands of at-risk youth in California are helped everyday by an organization that they probably don't even know exists, but without its help they would either be dead, in prison or on the streets involved in criminal activity.

The Delinquency Prevention Division within the Office of Prevention and Victims Services of the California Youth Authority administers nearly \$115 million in local assistance funds for youth centers, shelters, and juvenile facilities made available through Proposition 86 and AB2796. It also administers 15 county parenting/mentoring programs and five tattoo removal programs in the major metropolitan areas of the state.

The Proposition 86 funds were allocated through the YA's DPD to the counties and community-based agencies on a competitive basis for construction purposes. Thousands of "at risk" and abused youth are served by programs such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA's, shelters for runaway or homeless kids, and transitional living centers for those seeking emancipation. Using funds available for juvenile facilities, many counties have renovated aging buildings, expanded their capacity, and upgraded their programs.

AB2796 the Juvenile and Gang Prevention, Detention, and Public Protection Act of 1998 was signed into law in September 1998. In June 1999, the YA awarded a total of \$24.4 million to nonprofit agen-

(See Prevention Overview, Page 2)



The Prevention Division crew includes (left to right front row) Community Service Consultant Chiquita Sipos, Parole Agent I Dorene Nylund, Parole Agent III Kim Bushard, Parole Agent III Carol Barker, Office Tech Ruby Soliz, Office Assistant Yoko Tanaka, (back row) Parole Agent I Larry Nevarez, Staff Services Analyst Maria Cisneros, Parole Agent I Harvey Casillas, and Assistant Deputy Director of OPVS Milton Braswell

## Dedication 2000

# Commitment to Excellence

The 2000 *CYA Today* Prevention Edition is dedicated to Chiquita Sipos, a.k.a. "Chickie."

It is very timely that we pay tribute to Chickie for her years of outstanding service and dedication to the department.

Chickie started her correctional career in 1961, working for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. She has worked at Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility, four field parole offices, and participated in a wide variety of special assignments.

At the same time she was raising three daughters, Chickie spent 32 years working for the California Youth Authority as a parole agent, assistant supervising parole agent, supervising parole agent, community services consultant, and project director of a statewide federally funded jail removal grant. She is currently a Prevention & Victims Services Specialist in the Office of Prevention and Victims Services.



Chickie earned a B.A. Degree in Sociology from California State University, Los Angeles, and a B.S.L. and Juris Doctorate from Glendale University, College of Law.

Chickie is past president of the California Probation, Parole, and Correctional Association, and sergeant at arms of the Southern California Juvenile Officers Association. Currently, she is a member of the Board of Directors of SCJOA and serves on the Advisory Board for the Police Athletic League in Santa Monica.

She served two terms on the Board of Governors for the American Correctional Association, and represented the Board of Governors on the Executive Committee from 1990-92. She served in the Delegate Assembly, the Standards Committee, the Legal Issues

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# One of Many Jobs for Prevention Division

## State Commission on Juvenile Justice

One of the many jobs for the Delinquency Prevention Division, within the Office of Prevention and Victims Services, is to provide oversight and staff services to the State Commission on Juvenile Justice, Crime and Delinquency Prevention.

The Commission was established, in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1798, to serve as an advisory body to the director of the YA on matters relating to juvenile justice, crime and delinquency prevention. In order to fulfill this role, commissioners are involved in inspections of Youth Authority facilities and act as liaisons between the department and the communities where they live and work.

The Commission consists of 16 members: one appointed by the Senate, one appointed by the Assembly and 14 appointed by the director. The 16 current Commissioners represent many different California communities and a variety of professional disciplines.

This dynamic group works hard to inform the department about what is happening in local communities and to review Youth Authority programs to assure that we are doing the best we can to meet the State's needs in juvenile corrections.

As juvenile justice issues emerge and change, these individuals are available to assist us in identifying and dealing with those issues, and in modifying our programs to meet the ever-changing needs of the youth we work with.

If you work in an institution or parole office, expect to see one or more of these individuals visiting your work site. Know that they are there, at the request of the director, to help the department improve its programs and practices. Your assistance in helping them understand the work you do and how you do it can only lead

to improvements for the Youth Authority. While the Commissioners are at your work site, feel free to talk with them about their backgrounds and what they are working on.

Member	Area of Representation	Year Appointed
Carlos Armour	Deputy District Attorney, San Diego County	1990
Roberta Bodine	Retired Registered Nurse, volunteer for Juvenile Justice issues (Alameda County)	1993
Fr. Gregory Boyle	Jesuit Priest/Director of Jobs for a Future Homeboy Industries (Los Angeles County)	1999
Edward Chavez	Chief of Police, Stockton Police Department, Chairman of Northern CYA Advisory Committee	1999
Henry Cotten	Private business owner, President of the Director's Art Program (Alameda County)	1993
Martha Crawford	Director, Victim/Witness Assistance Division, Riverside County DA's Office	1993
Philip del Campo	Private Education Consultant and President Emeritus, San Diego Community Colleges	1993
Helene Davis	Team Leader, Children's Hospital, Oakland, active volunteer for victims issues	1996
Elizabeth Gomez	Director, Los Angeles Youth Network	1993
Ruby Hefley	Juvenile Justice activist (Fresno County)	2000
Connye' Kubo	Juvenile Justice Activist (Fresno County)	1986
Tomas Martinez	Professor of Psychology, Pepperdine University (Los Angeles County)	1993
Larry McKay	Volunteer for YA & Amador County Juvenile Justice Commission	1999
Winston Peters	Public Defenders Office (Los Angeles County)	2000
Ghet Tran	Volunteer, Alameda County Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission	1996
Nghia Tran	Community Volunteer	1996

## Prevention Overview

Continued from Page 1

cies for the acquisition, renovation and construction of youth centers.

The Delinquency Prevention Division (DPD) also assists local justice agencies with their efforts to prevent and control crime and delinquency. The division is responsible for managing several delinquency prevention grant programs throughout California.

Grant programs include four Gang Violence Reduction Projects located in East Los Angeles, San Diego, Monterey and Tulare Counties. These programs enlist the services of community-based programs, schools, and law enforcement to provide opportunities for kids of all ages as an alternative to youth gang participation.

DPD staff also administer 15 County Young Men as Fathers Parenting/Mentoring Grant Programs that provide parenting education to youth who are involved in the criminal justice

system and who are already parents or are in a parenting role in their homes. The Young Men As Fathers program is based on the premise that the prevention of child maltreatment can lead to the prevention of delinquency in the future.

And last, but not least, the division administers Tattoo Removal Grant Programs in five metropolitan areas of the state. In 1997, SB526 was enacted to provide grant money to purchase two tattoo removal machines and the department awarded funds to Tattoo Removal programs in Los Angeles and San Francisco. In 1998, SB1700 was enacted to fund four more Tattoo Removal Programs in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Fresno.

This program provides tattoo removal services to "at-risk" youth referred by community based organizations. The intent of the program is to remove one barrier (tattoos) to future employment and law-abiding behavior.

## Harper...

Continued from Page 1

years in law enforcement.

Prevention works--good programs change lives, enrich families and restore communities.

As you learn more about the YA's "best kept secret", I encourage you to contact DPD staff. They would be interested in exploring ways to interact with you, your jobsite and your community.

## Sipos...

Continued from Page 1

Committee, and various other ACA committees.

Chickie is currently the co-chairperson of the ACA National Victims Committee and member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and a member of the ACA Children's Initiatives AD Hoc Committee.

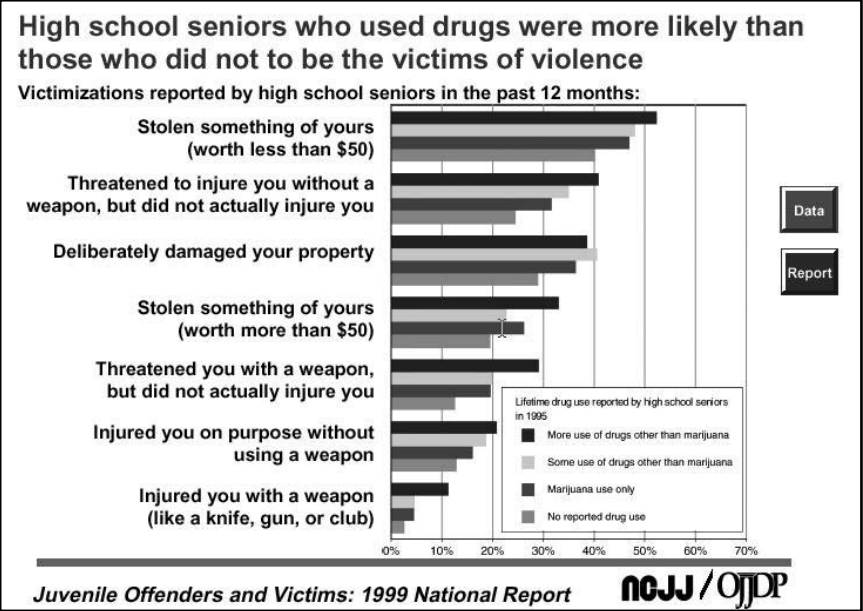
With her extensive knowledge and background of the juvenile justice system, Chickie has earned the confidence and respect of many professionals and high level justice system officials including judges, chief probation

officers, and key law enforcement personnel.

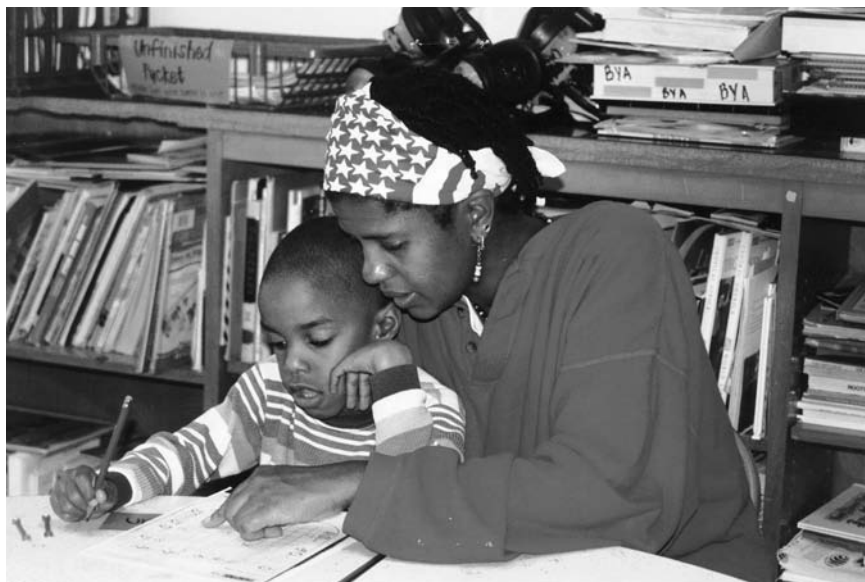
Her long-standing commitment and loyalty to the department speaks volumes about her dedication to making an impact on young lives and the staff with whom she works.

She is an important link in the juvenile justice system and her legacy shall continue into the new millennium as her energy and enthusiasm continues to motivate those who come in contact with her.

In part, because of her contributions, the California Youth Authority continues to be the leader in juvenile corrections.



# OPVS is Sheltering State Bond Money



*A young woman works with a child at one of the many programs funded by grants administered by the California Youth Authority.*

The Office of Prevention & Victim Services (OPVS) is responsible for the oversight and administration of \$50 million in funds for youth centers. Twenty-five million dollars was received from the County Correctional Facility Capital Expen-

diture and Youth Facility Bond Act of 1988 and \$25 million from the Juvenile and Gang Violence Prevention, Detention, and Public Protection Act of 1998 (AB 2796).

Youth centers bring youth together for services and activi-

ties, including, but not limited to, recreation, health and fitness, citizenship and leadership development, job training, delinquency prevention such as anti-gang programs, teen pregnancy prevention programs, and counseling for such problems as drug and alcohol abuse.

Shelters provide a variety of services to runaway or homeless minors, and abused/neglected children to assist them with their immediate survival needs and help reunite them with their parents or find a suitable home.

The funds were made available for the acquisition, construction, renovation, and development of youth centers and shelters. The County Correctional Facility Capital Expenditure and Youth Facility Bond Act of 1988 funded 69 Youth Center/Youth Shelter projects. In Implements the Juvenile and

Gang Violence Prevention, Detention, and Public Protection Act of 1998, the department received a total of 264 applications, requesting almost \$359 million. In July 1999, approximately \$24.4 million was awarded to 21 youth centers in 16 counties.

## Attendance Figures January–December 1999; (43 of 69 projects)

Youth Shelters  
10,578 youth served

Youth Centers  
Average Daily Attendance  
3,257 statewide

## Tulelake, A Community Response to Prevention

By **Joan Loustalet**  
Chair  
Tulelake Youth and  
Community Center Board

The Tulelake Basin is a small, isolated, rural area in far Northern California. Our economy is agriculturally based with many family farms. We have a significant gang problem and it has impacted all members of our community. About seven years ago, several community members began meeting to discuss the needs of our community and our youth.

We were concerned about the increased gang activity, the limited opportunities for recreation and enrichment available to our children, and the lack of services for our children and families. Our community group continues today as the "Tulelake Community Partnership" and involves the schools, business community, parents, students, city government, law enforcement and agencies serving youth and families.

We believe that building a strong community with support for all children and families is the best way to prevent youth crime and violence. One of the most tangible evidences of our work is a youth and community center. Thanks to a California Youth Authority grant, along with funds from the school district and private foundations, we will break ground for construction of our center this month.

Our center will allow us to better coordinate and expand many of the prevention programs we have been building



*Above is an artists rendition of the Tulelake Youth and Community Center that is being funded with grant money from the California Youth Authority, a local school district and private foundations.*

over the past seven years. Due to the support of the Tulelake Basin Joint Unified School District, the City of Tulelake, the Modoc County Office of Education and a private non-profit organization (Training, Employment And Community Help – T.E.A.C.H., Inc.) we established a family resource center known as the Tulelake/Newell Family Center.

We have also put in place programs to provide support to families, increase recreational opportunities for youth and families, and improve social skills of at-risk students and a variety of other activities.

The following is a summary of some of the prevention activities taking place in the Tulelake Basin.

**Family Support:** we have Early Head Start, Even Start and Small Counties Initiative programs to provide case management and home visiting to families. Family Service Workers provide in-home enrichment

activities for parents and children, help parents identify needs and goals and provide support and resources for families to attain the goals they have set for themselves. We have recently received a Healthy Start Planning grant to assist us in expanding services to families with older children. Currently, more than 60 area families receive family support services.

**Recreational and enrichment opportunities:** the City Recreation program has been expanded and after school enrichment and recreation programs have been established. There are now year-round, structured activities for fun and learning available to all school-aged children. The programs include 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers, After School Partnerships and Latchkey. These programs have been very successful. One-third of all our students regularly attend after school or recreation activities.

We have expanded family

recreational activities to include structured "family fun nights" and "families working together" activities in the evening at least monthly.

**Social Skills:** our schools have implemented several programs to enhance the development of social skills. Programs like "Character Counts" and "Tribes" fit into a school-wide curriculum that focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive social interactions.

The Early Mental Health Initiative identifies students at risk for mild school adjustment problems and provides one-on-one time with a caring adult for those students.

The Multi-Agency Prevention Services Team from Siskiyou County provides specialized intervention services to children and families who are demonstrating significant problems.

**Community-building activities:** the City of Tulelake has received grant funding to develop a community needs assessment and to seek economic development opportunities, a CalWORKS Outreach worker has been jointly funded by Modoc and Siskiyou Counties to help families become self-sufficient.

We are working to weave a tapestry of services, activities and opportunities to promote a healthy community and prevent bad outcomes for youth. Collaboration with a variety of entities and the involvement of our youth in identifying needs and solutions have been essential elements in the development of our approach to prevention.

# The Salvation Army's 'Way In' Center Provides a Refuge for Homeless Youth

By **Gabriella Arlena Wynn**  
and **Kamara Noelle Sams**  
Salvation Army

LOS ANGELES – With the help of a \$1 million grant from Proposition 86 bond funds, the Salvation Army of Los Angeles built and equipped a homeless youth shelter in Hollywood that has become home to many of the 8,000 youth who sleep on the streets of Los Angeles every night.

In 1990, the Salvation Army was awarded \$1 million in bond funds through a competitive bid process administered by the California Youth Authority. The Salvation Army's Way In Youth Shelter & Drop-In Center in Hollywood was the result of those funds. Opened in 1994, the Way In's location was strategically chosen to help children escape Hollywood street life.

Each year, numerous youngsters are drawn to Hollywood by the perceived glamour of the entertainment industry. However, many soon find themselves in a nightmare of homelessness, hunger, fear, loneliness, violence and sometimes death.

Youth on the streets are homeless primarily due to severe family problems. According to one California study, 65% are on the streets because of physical and/or sexual abuse, while others are dealing with abandonment issues, emotional conflict and substance abuse. For many of them, running away and becoming homeless is the most practical option. Once on the streets, they typically engage in sexual and criminal behaviors like prostitution, survival sex, petty crime, squatting in unused buildings and drug dealing; behaviors that blur distinctions between survival and self-destruction. Needless to say, a hot meal and a place to sleep are often luxuries. The Way In helps by providing food, shelter and case management in a multi-faceted program that includes residential housing, an independent living program and a drop-in center.

The Way In's residential facility can house up to 20 adolescent children. Fourteen of those beds are for teens placed in the program by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for their own protection. The remaining six beds are for runaway adolescent minors who either left home or came to the center by referral from other agencies.

Once in the program, each youth, regardless of referral type, collaborates with an on-site caseworker who helps them develop a case plan. That case plan involves the youth making active decisions by setting goals and objectives related to family, school and work. This may include the establishment of a court case or participation in a

family reunification program. The comprehensive services provided by The Way In are necessary to move homeless youth from the streets toward the goals of residential stability, greater self-determination and increased skill and income level. The goals of The Way In's Independent Living Program mirror those of the residential component and target those who would otherwise be at risk of becoming homeless.

The Way In's Independent Living Program currently has three (soon to be four) apartments for youth ages 18-22. The program is one year long and is designed to help youngsters who are emancipated from the foster care system or are of legal age with no family or other option available to help them become independent and self-sufficient. During their stay, residents are required to finish high school or pursue further education or vocational training. They are also required to attend weekly counseling sessions, meetings with their case manager and group trainings.

Many adolescent runaways in Hollywood decline a program with as much structure as The Way In for fear of becoming a foster child or being forced to return to an unsafe situation. For others, issues such as drug addiction compound life on the street. With this in mind, The Way In established a drop-in center.

Open every Monday through Friday from 7 – 11 p.m., The Way In Drop-In Center provides a hot meal to every child who shows up. Daily, that number varies from 25 to 85. In addition to dinner, the youngsters are also able to shower, get clean clothes, make phone calls, store valuables and receive taxi vouchers and bus tokens. The Children's Hospital of Los Angeles provides counselors and a mobile health team while the Shelter Partnership donates hygiene supplies and blankets. Legal services are offered through public counsel. The Drop-In Center case managers work with the kids and offer assistance with education, substance abuse treatment, employment and job placement, life skills and support groups.

The Salvation Army's Way In Youth Shelter & Drop-In Center is able to provide residential housing, independent living and a drop-in center as a result of funding received through H.U.D. and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Runaway and Homeless Youth Basic Center Program. Further funding is also provided by the Salvation Army, grants and private donations.

Through a close-knit network of shelter programs and area agencies, The Way In helps to provide viable solutions to the problem of homeless youth living on the streets of Los Angeles. The program makes services available to kids who are without a voice, the most in need, the most at-risk and the most cut off from society.

## Berkeley Youth Given Alternative Choices

By **Sakura Lee**  
Operations Coordinator

In the shadow of one of the most prestigious universities in the country where students come with hopes and dreams for their futures, there is an organization dedicated to helping youth who have little hope and even fewer opportunities.

The Berkeley Youth Alternative (BYA) is a non-profit agency that provides comprehensive, pre-school to pre-college, services to at-risk youth and their families. Located in the heart of West Berkeley, where the crime rate is higher than the rest of the city and where the average income is lower, the BYA has been a safe haven for the youth of the area for more than 30 years.

Due to a variety of socioeconomic factors, these youth are extremely vulnerable to becoming involved in drug use, gang activities, truancy, violent behavior and premature sexual activity. With a \$1 million ren-

ovation grant from the California Youth Authority in 1990, the BYA was able to expand its services to keep the youth of the area away from risky or delinquent behavior, and to intervene if they are already involved.

The BYA works on two fronts to prevent juvenile delinquency. First of all, it provides intervention services such as counseling for youth already involved in the juvenile justice system, and secondly it provides prevention services for those youth who are at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. The staff of the BYA believe that prevention starts early, which is why they provide services such as preschool childcare at an affordable rate to parents of the area. In the preschool program, children are introduced to concepts of self-esteem and good citizenship.

In the BYA's after-school and summer camp programs, children are given one-on-one mentoring and help with home-

work, not to mention arts and crafts time, performing arts classes, and recreation free time. With comprehensive services for children ages three to 18, many of the area's children have "grown up with BYA," among staff who are genuinely concerned about their well being and long term success.

For teenagers, the population that is most at-risk and feels the most social pressure to conform to their peers, BYA provides a variety of alternative peer groups. The BYA Youth Enterprise department not only employs youth that might not be hired in other establishments, but provides training in valuable job skills and professional habits. The three garden patches that the youth maintain, full flower bouquet service, and landscaping contracts with the city of Berkeley not only give the youth employees an opportunity to take control of their finances and responsibility for their business, but they also provide a chance to develop a good work ethic and

a working knowledge of how businesses are run.

The counseling center provides both individual and family counseling for the community for a nominal fee, or for free. While teen angst is normal, many of the youth at the BYA have experienced more emotional trauma than the average person, and need to find ways to talk about their feelings in a safe setting. The counseling center provides a safe place for the youth to express their feelings. The counseling center requires the youth employees to attend men's and women's groups, facilitated by a counselor, once a week as part of their terms of employment. Hence the BYA counseling center reaches a population that does not usually have access to counseling services.

While the BYA stresses academic and emotional success, the staff understands that youth like to play. In addition to recreational time provided in

(See Berkeley, Page 8)

# Strengthening Communities and Institutions

The Young Men As Fathers (YMAF) program began in 1993 as a fulfillment of the dream of the late **Walt Jones**, the former assistant deputy director for the Office of Prevention and Victims Services.

The program's goals were to prevent child maltreatment and to end the pattern of recidivism. The program is built on the idea that children need stability, leadership, and a father's perspective on life.

With federal grant funds, the program began in the YA's 11 institutions and four conservation camps.

There are three components to the program: curriculum, family visiting day, and mentoring.

The 60-hour curriculum included prenatal care, infant and toddler stages, discipline, prevention of domestic violence, medical concerns, bonding, and positive role modeling.

The special family visiting day activities were developed to reinforce the classroom activities and curriculum that were taught by Youth Authority instructors.

Representatives from the community served as mentors and made presentations to the wards to prepare them for the outside community when they parole. These speakers covered topics such as child abuse, relationships, and parenting. Also included were speakers who were victims of crime.



*Young Men As Fathers participants enjoy a family activity during a class in the Los Angeles area. The family activities are one of the three components of the Young Men As Fathers Program. The idea behind the program is that children need stability, leadership and a father's perspective on life.*

Today, the YMAF program continues. There are currently 15 county programs throughout California. All the programs are funded by the state. The Youth Authority provides leadership for the cooperative partnership between the state, county probation departments, and the county offices of education.

The program is based on three beliefs:

- 1) Child maltreatment is closely linked to later delinquency and can be prevented,
- 2) Both parents are needed for the proper planning and development of every child, and young delinquent men must be made more accountable for their parenting obligations, and
- 3) Being an involved father is good for self-esteem and can be a motivating factor for a successful life.

The three components in the county programs also include classroom instruction, family activities, and mentoring.

The curriculum is composed of current video productions, material used by the Youth Authority, probation department, and county offices of education, as well as culturally sensitive material developed by departmental staff, outside parenting experts, and wards who are fathers.

Family activities vary with each program. Activities include visits to places like museums, Sea World, roller skate outings, theater plays about social awareness, the park and playing board games.

The mentoring component includes meeting the minimum qualification standards and getting approval from the California

mentoring initiative, recruiting mentors, and training mentors. The program receives approval if it meets the six minimum qualifications — programs must be six months old, prohibit discrimination, have liability insurance, and provide direct services; mentors must be fingerprinted for criminal background, and work on a volunteer basis.

The Young Men As Fathers program recruits in numerous ways. It uses previous mentors, the local media that provides advertisement through radio and television, and collaboration with community service organizations, community-based organizations, and county service agencies.

Mentors' training includes workshops that provide knowledge, information, and skills about listening. Mentors are also taught parenting skills, positive role modeling, and focusing on the needs of youth to encourage them to develop to their fullest.

The YMAF program continues to provide the youth the opportunity to not only change their lives but the lives of others. The youth are able to create a better environment for both their families and their communities.

This program, like so many offered by the Youth Authority, can only be successful if those who participate are willing to change their past and use the skills acquired for a more productive future.

## Youth Rap Session in Napa County Parenting Class

The Napa County Office of Education and the Napa County Juvenile Probation Department have collaborated to implement an innovative, multicultural program titled Project Poppa.

"The Youth Rap Session" led by **Ron Beverly**, program specialist, is a 14-unit violence and pregnancy prevention/intervention program funded by the California Youth Authority.

This project will attempt to break the intergenerational cycle of violence and prevent future delinquency of offspring of pro-

gram participants.

The principle goals of the Youth Rap Session are to address critical issues directly affecting the lives of young men; and strengthen the personal and institutional factors that contribute to healthy adolescent development and offer youth a long-term stake in the community.

It is the vision of program administrators that as young men increase their knowledge, adjust their attitudes about being responsible young men and fathers, develop a sense of self-worth, and build and

maintain healthy relationships, they will then become motivated to prevent violence and teen pregnancy, according to county officials. This success will be measured through changes in their interpersonal relationships, better decision-making skills, decreases in recidivism, which will ultimately reduce crime in the community.

The plan is to provide classroom education (violence & pregnancy prevention, intervention), mentoring and special family activities to young men who are on formal probation and are incarcerated or noncustodial.

Support services will also be provided to increase their knowledge of community resources, thus enabling them to be responsible for themselves, their families, and their community.

*"This class has been the most effective, most fun, and most educational program I have ever taken."*

*-Steve, age 16*

*"This program really helped me out as a father ... I hope they continue this program, so it can help others out, like it helped me."*

*- Mike, age 17*

*"This class is something that all young men should have."*

*- Julio, age 16*



Prevention starts with  
a Personal touch...  
and a Heart that cares.



How do you keep  
this kid off drugs?  
Hang out with him.  
Be a mentor!



## Internet Resources

The following prevention web sites can provide you with additional information for crime prevention and youth intervention.

**California Mentoring Foundation** <http://www.calmentor.org/>

**California Attorney General** <http://caag.state.ca.us/cvpc>

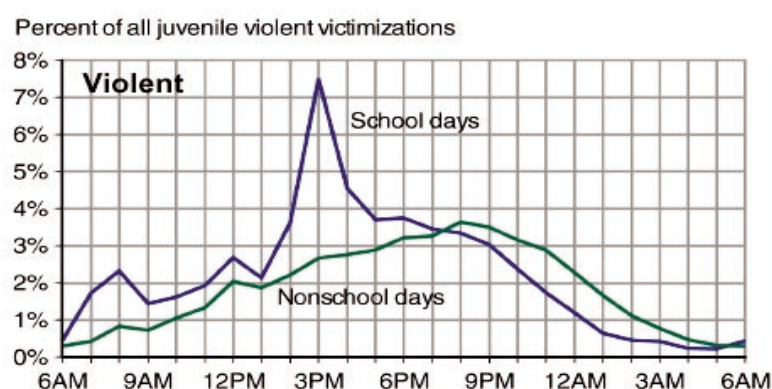
**National Criminal Justice Reference Service** <http://ncjrs.org>

**Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention** <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org>

**National Crime Prevention Council** <http://www.ncpc.org>

**Resources for Youth** <http://www.preventviolence.org/>

**1 in 5 of all violent crimes with juvenile victims occurs  
between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on school days**



Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report

NCJJ/OJJDP

## Questions???

The California Youth Authority's Delinquency Prevention Division is dedicated to providing support to all of our prevention programs and technical assistance on other issues related to juvenile delinquency. If you have any questions regarding the CYA's prevention programs, or need information and/or assistance, please contact the resource person designated for that area of expertise. The following people can assist you with any questions regarding:

### Youth Centers/Youth Shelters

Kim Bushard (916) 262-1392

### Tattoo Removal Program

Carol Barker (714) 891-8932

### Young Men As Fathers Program

Dorene Nylund (916) 262-1392

### Gang Violence Reduction Project

Harvey Casillas (916) 262-1392

# Good Parenting Skills = Safer Communities

By **Arlene Rosen**

L.A. Dads/Moms Program Administrator

Based on the belief that good parenting skills can help break the cycle of violence, gangs and crime, the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles County Probation Department have formed a partnership to teach young men and women the skills they will need to be good parents.

L.A. Dads/Moms is a program that is now in its fourth year of offering services to young teen parents in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court and Community Schools. L.A. Dads/Moms has a target population that is comprised of adjudicated young men and women 14-18 years old who are in parenting situations.

The L.A. Dads/Moms project's curriculum is based on a model from the California Youth Authority's "Young Men As Father's " program. The curriculum is 24 one-hour sessions given at the 35 L.A. Dads/Moms sites (Probation Camps, Community Education Centers and Residential Community Education Centers) throughout Los Angeles County. The curriculum is taught during health classes and is in compliance with the state health framework. An emphasis is made on family literacy and the bonding that can occur when families have incentives to read together.

Following the initial phase focusing on reading and literacy, the young teen parents work with mentors from their community. Many of the mentors work with the Operation READ program sponsored by the Department of Probation. In that program, the mentors read and tutor the students several times per week.

When the mentors work with the teen dads and moms they not only read with them but guide them in the responsibilities that come with parenting. The mentors also attend family activities and meet their mentee's families as well as reinforce family literacy and family involvement.

Two special family intergeneration bonding activities L.A. Dads/Moms has had over the last couple of months are a Father's Day

picnic and a trip to Barnes and Noble bookstore.

The Father's Day activity at Probation Camp Miller was a wonderful success. The boys huddled around picnic tables with their families. Many parents, girlfriends, and babies came to greet their L.A. Dad. There was a petting zoo and pony rides. For many of the fathers, this was the first time they had seen their child.

All the dads presented their families and held their children with much pride when they introduced them. One of the dads said he wanted to provide everything for his daughter and can't wait to be on his own to provide for his family. For a few hours they took a break from their military drills and literacy classes to celebrate Father's Day.

The Barnes and Noble activity was held in Valencia, California and Camp Scudder dads were brought there to meet their children and families by the L.A. Dads/Moms program. Nearly a dozen teenage dads gathered with their children to hear a story read to the children. The ultimate goal is to get the young fathers sold on the idea that if they read with their children, their children will become readers. L.A. Dads/Moms gave each father a gift certificate to buy a book for his child to take home and L.A. Dads/Moms staff, schoolteachers, and probation staff guided their choices.

The interaction with teen parents and their families in and out of the classroom serves to help stop the replication of behaviors in the next generation by showing the children that family bonding and involved parenting leads to positive self-awareness. It lessens the need to exhibit the negative behaviors their teen parents had that led them into the probation system.

Emphasizing family literacy at the earliest stages of life, make school and learning a positive experience which also gives the children better opportunities and helps keep gang activity and criminal involvement out of their lives. The L.A. Dads/Moms Program Administrator, **Arlene Rosen** and Probation Coordinator, **Bruce Prescott** are very excited about the project's plans for the future and optimistic about the number of families the program will help.

## 1 Million Mentors by 2004

# Mentoring Works

Alcohol and drug use, teen pregnancy, academic failure, gang participation, and violence are major social problems facing youth today.

One strategy that is showing great promise and has solid research results to back up the promise is mentoring.

The California Mentor Initiative began in 1995 under former Gov. **Pete Wilson**. Last year Gov. **Gray Davis** expanded the budget and set a goal of one million mentor matches by 2004.

The Mentor initiative provides local service grants working through organizations such as the California Mentor Foundation, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and more than 300 other mentoring programs and coalitions that provide services throughout the state.

The California Mentor Foundation conducted a survey of 312 mentor programs in California. The results show the mentoring movement in California is making a significant difference for youth. (You

may view the entire report by going to [http://www.calmentor.org/html/body\\_scorecard.cfm](http://www.calmentor.org/html/body_scorecard.cfm))

The responses of the survey provide a snap shot of the quality mentoring programs in California. These programs report having 36,251 mentors that supported 57,659 young people. They reported that 56,736 (98.4%) stayed in school, 49,154 (85.25%) did not use drugs, 56,448 (97.9%) did not become a teen mother, and 56,621 (98.2%) did not get involved in a gang.

The Office of Prevention and Victim Services (OPVS) collaborates with several state agencies to work toward the governor's goal of a million mentors.

If you are interested in more information about mentoring, contact **Dorene Nylund** at (916) 262-1392 or [dylund@cya.ca.gov](mailto:dylund@cya.ca.gov). For an online directory of local mentor programs, visit the California Mentor Foundation's website at [www.calmentor.org](http://www.calmentor.org) or call the California Mentor Initiative toll free at 1-888-80-MENTOR.

## Berkeley...

Continued from Page 4

the preschool, after school and summer camp programs, BYA runs a sports program with such sports as basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball, and karate. One of the most successful sports programs is the "Twilite League," for teenage girls that runs on Friday nights.

The Twilite League was formed in response to a disturbing teenage pregnancy rate in the area, and its purpose is to raise the girls' self-esteem and to keep them off of the streets at a time when teens are likely to engage in risky behavior such as sexual activity. While the girls enjoy playing basketball, they are also keeping themselves occupied in a positive and constructive activity, learning to set goals and working toward them. They also attend life-enriching workshops as deterrence to risky behavior. The girls are also provided S.A.T. workshops and college counseling to meet the academic and emotional challenges of being recruited by college teams.

While BYA provides intervention services to youth, the staff believe that prevention

must come both before and after intervention. That is, prevention efforts must be made before youth engage in delinquent behavior, and if they do become involved with the juvenile justice system, preventative efforts must be made to keep them from becoming further involved.

"We offer comprehensive programming to develop the mind, body, intellect and emotional strength of our youth by providing them with sets of peers and role models who are motivated, intelligent and strong, and by providing them with a community that cares about their well-being and that will intervene on their behalf," said **Sakura Lee**, operations coordinator for the BYA.

"The BYA provides our youth with the strongest preventative measures possible: we care about them and care about their success. When the youth know this, it makes failing less acceptable. They work hard for us because we work hard for them. Call it prevention, call it mutual respect, call it love. The results are the same regardless of the name," concluded Lee.



# California Youth Authority Gang Violence Reduction Project

Since 1995, there has been a general decline in the juvenile crime rate. As encouraging as this may be, juvenile offending and particularly gang related violent offenses continue at a high rate. The 1997 National Youth Gang Survey indicated that “the gang problem in the United States is substantial and impacts communities of all sizes.” The report further suggest that 816,000 gang members were active in 30,500 gangs.

In the 1993 California Attorney General’s Report on the impact of criminal street gangs on crime and violence in California through 2000, the California Department of Justice estimated there were between 175,000 - 200,000 criminal street gang members in California. This same report also noted the following expected trends:

- By the year 2000, gangs will remain a significant violent crime threat to all the major metropolitan cities and they will become a major crime problem for many rural counties.

- Gangs are recruiting members at a younger age. There will be more juvenile gang members, and some will be fourth generation gang members. They will stay with the gangs for longer periods of time. Many gang members are, or will become, career criminals.

- Gangs provide youth with positive reinforcement often lacking in the home and school. Young people often see gang membership as necessary for survival or as a source of income or prestige.

While most of these predictions have come true, there is a growing body of research that

suggests an effective method in which to combat these ominous trends is the implementation of multifaceted, comprehensive programs. These programs often feature positive approaches that emphasize the healthy, social, physical, and mental development within the targeted community.

In 1976, the Youth Authority was willing to explore new and unorthodox methods of delinquency prevention. These efforts resulted in the formation of a specialized unit, the Gang Violence Reduction Project (GVRP) in East Los Angeles, in the heart of one of the most entrenched gang cultures in California, with some gangs dating back to the 1920’s. Over the course of the years this program has evolved, redefined and reshaped itself to meet the

changing needs of the youth of East Los Angeles. Today, this program serves as a national, state, and local model for dedicated individuals coming together in order to make safer communities.

There are currently four GVRP grant programs (East Los Angeles, San Diego County, Monterey County and Tulare County), all established on a competitive basis and administered through the CYA’s Office of Prevention and Victim’s Services.

The core elements of each GVRP project are gang conflict mediation, information sharing between various agencies including law enforcement, services for victims of gang violence, community service, and alternative activities to gang involvement for at-risk youth.

## Community Gang Reduction Project, Inc..

By **Dan Almaraz**  
President CGRP

Cutting gang involvement and giving youth in East Los Angeles (ELA) some alternatives to gangs is the goal of the Community Gang Reduction Project, one of the oldest Gang Reduction Projects in the State.

The Community Gang Reduction Project, Inc. (CGRP) is a non-profit corporation established in December 1996 in East Los Angeles. The CGRP was established by consultants to continue, and expand the work they helped create under the California Youth Authority Gang Violence Reduction Program in East Los Angeles. It has four major objectives and goals: gang mediation, alternatives to gang membership, helping victims of gang violence, and providing community service opportunities to its participants.

### 1. Gang Mediation

The resolution of gang members’ feuds and those with gang involvement is the focus of our mediation. The ELA GVRP consultants developed a model helping solve the problems between gangs. This includes meeting with gang members and iden-

tifying the issues, negotiating these issues and getting both sides to agree to a solution. Garfield High School is also using our services to help with gang mediation.

### 2. Alternatives to Gangs (After School Programs)

*Literacy Program:* This program helps youth from elementary schools in various areas. Activities include tutoring, working with the children, pizza parties, open house for parents, and certifications at completion of classes. Our program is part of the Extended Learning Program (after school instruction for students at risk of failing).

The Laubach Way to Reading, Writing and Phonics program is presented at Eastman Elementary School and Hamel Street Elementary School.

*California Latino Dropout Program:* This is presented at Belvedere Middle School and Ramona High School. This program is based on the Cada Cabeza es un Mundo/Each Mind is a World. The curriculum offers a wide variety of resources so students may more fully participate in the social and educational mainstream. Girls from these two schools are taken to

the Ventura CYA institution to make the students aware of what it means to be incarcerated, consequences of being incarcerated, and what can lead them to be incarcerated.

*Gang Awareness Classes:* Presentations are made in the community, at local schools, the Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility, and the Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic describing the problems of being in gangs and presenting alternates to youth. When talking to youth we explain the consequences of their actions and what can happen to them physically when involved in gang activities.

*Mothers & Daughters Club:* This club has been in existence since 1991. There are monthly evening meetings, community activities, special speakers, and positive family outing programs. Other activities include softball, fund raisers, holiday dinners, and volunteer opportunities in community partnership with other organizations

*Fathers & Sons Club:* Regular monthly meetings include special speakers, participation in community activities, physical activities, community cleanup beautification events, and pos-

itive family outing programs. Other activities include men’s retreats, men’s breakfasts with special speakers, special training and workshops for fathers, and partnership with other community organizations.

*Summer Youth Programs:* CGRP works with agencies that provide the County of Los Angeles “Workforce Investment Act of 1998” employment programs targeting “at risk” youth.

*Community Graffiti Removal:* CGRP works with the County of Los Angeles, LAPD Community Graffiti Removal, and local business people in the removal of gang graffiti. Community Specialists will remove graffiti on weekends as required. They are also involved in painting murals to prevent graffiti from being put back on the walls.

*Presentations:* Presentations are made to schools, community based organizations and law enforcement agencies, including the V.I.D.A. program, regarding gangs, drugs, victims and related subjects.

*Tattoo Removal:* Tattoo removal is necessary to change lives of people in the community, to help people get jobs and

(See CGRP, Page 10)

# Camp 'Minitown' Brings Revelations

By **Bennie L. Jolly II**  
Police Officer/Coordinator

For more than 80 students from ethnically diverse communities in San Diego, the revelation about race relations, hatred, bigotry, segregation and gang violence came at a place called "Camp Minitown."

Sponsored by the San Diego Gang Violence Reduction Project, "Camp Minitown" is based on the national model designed to teach youth there are alternatives to violence, hatred and gangs. Eighty students from Memorial Academy attended the four-day, three-night camp on San Diego's Palomar Mountain in October 1999.

The purpose of Minitown is to lay bare the complex issues of bias, bigotry and racism unique to a particular target school or neighborhood. Camp Minitown strives to create a safe environment which nurtures teamwork, leadership, self-esteem communication, friendship, and mutual respect, trust and understanding among the diverse participants. In addition, San Diego's Minitown was designed as a lesson in the high costs of gang membership; the danger, isolation and segregation gangs foster.

Students participated in several powerful activities. In one they "designed" an ideal community in which they would like to live--free of crime, fear and drugs, where they felt safe in their homes, streets and schools, and where they would not be treated differently or put down because of who and what they are.

In another activity, students were divided randomly into groups. Each group was assigned a race or ethnic group. Their task was to list all the names they had ever heard used to refer to their assigned group. The completed lists were posted on the walls, and the groups rotated through the room reading them. Seeing hatred, intolerance, misunderstanding and bigotry reduced to written words was a powerfully emotional experience from which students came to understand how much pain such words can cause.

During "Culture Night," students showcased elements of their unique cultures. An Hispanic group performed a Mexican folkloric dance. An African American group presented a play about their ancestors' arrival in America, slavery, and African customs.

Judging from the teamwork and friendships that developed over the first days, San Diego's Minitown was a great success. However, in order to drive home the lessons learned, on the last day of camp, the counselors feigned anger with the kids for some misdeed. As "punishment," students were ordered to stay within their own ethnic group. They were forbidden to speak with, or even look at, anyone of another group. The students were angry and distraught, some to the point of tears, at their forced "segregation," and thankful when

it ended. This final exercise underscored the cohesion, respect and genuine friendships that had developed among the students, and demonstrated how much is lost when people segregate themselves by superficial traits such as race or gang membership. All the participants--students and counselors alike--left Minitown with greater insight, and newfound friends, many of whom they had never even spoken to before, although they attended the same school.

San Diego's Gang Violence Reduction Project is coordinated by San Diego Police Officer **Ben Jolly**. It targets Memorial Academy, a middle school, and five "feeder" elementary schools, in an ethnically diverse neighborhood. In addition to the San Diego Police Department, three community based organizations assist with various program services and activities--Partners in Prevention, Education and Recovery (PIPER); San Diego Mediation and Restitution Services (MARS); and Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) San Diego.

Based on their Minitown experience (and with assistance from **Cynthia Stokes**, a Teaching Artist from the La Jolla Playhouse) the students wrote and performed a play, "Inside Out," about friends, families and personal relationships. They shared their Camp Minitown experiences with students from the target elementary schools, and included them in the play.

"Inside Out" is the story of a young boy's journey into adulthood; the trials and triumphs of growing up, of loving and losing. The main character, **Alex**, is a boy who is "different"--sensitive, soft-spoken--and who is ridiculed by the other kids, and even by his own father. When Alex was very young, his mother was killed in a traffic crash while Alex' father was driving drunk. Alex grew up with intense anger toward his father. His father dealt with his own feelings of guilt and sorrow by acting cold and uncaring. Relations between Alex and his father were cold and distant.

As a teen, Alex befriends a homeless boy named **Cricket**. When Cricket is shot while stealing food, Alex shows his strength and courage by coming to Cricket's aid and saving his life. During the dramatic finale, Alex's mother appears as an angel to encourage Alex, and reassure him that he is doing the right thing. She also explains to Alex that his father, while he made some mistakes, is really a good man. When Alex's father sees his son's courage and goodness in saving Cricket's life, the love that had always been on the "inside" becomes evident on the "outside," and he and Alex regain the love and understanding that had been lost.

San Diego Police Department staff, our community partners, student participants, teachers and parents feel that the Gang Violence Reduction Grant Project of CYA has been a tremendous success, and has helped us to make great strides toward peace, harmony and understanding in our homes and our neighborhoods.



*Students participate in a group program at "Camp Minitown" at Palomar Mountain in San Diego County. Eighty students from Memorial Academy in San Diego attended the four-day, three-night camp.*

## CGRP Bringing Change ...

(Continued from Page 9)

help people with parole requirements. Referrals are made to the Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic, North East Clinic, Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center, and White Memorial Hospital.

### 3. Helping Victims of Gang Violence

CGRP works with victims of gang violence. This includes meeting with the victims, assisting them in various ways includ-

ing making referrals to Victims Services, churches, and youth programs.

Presentations are made to community groups, elementary, middle and high schools, and to incarcerated people who have produced victims, helping them to realize what they have done and hopefully to prevent future violence. Victim awareness presentations including videos

and discussions are made to CYA Youth Correctional Facilities LA County Camps and Juvenile Halls.

### 4. Community Service Projects

Another important element of the Community Gang Reduction Project is community service efforts.

Community service projects include a community beautifica-

tion program conducted by the Fathers and Sons Program in conjunction with the Maravilla Business Association, Summer Camp programs with Salesian Boys and Girls Club, Vacation Bible School with Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, distribution of donated bread and pastries for Family Nutrition Program, and Court Referral Community Service Programs.

# Now You See It...Now You Don't

## Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic's Laser Tattoo Removal Program



*“For the majority of clients, this service allows them to re-enter mainstream society. But for some of them, it’s a life-saving service as well.”*

*-Clinic Medical Administrator  
Celia Garza*

By **Felix Racelis**

Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic

In early 1998, **Dr. Steven Popkow** was supervising physician of Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic and maintained a private practice specializing in tattoo removal. Through a church affiliation, he provided a limited number of these services pro bono. However, he could never hope to fulfill the requests of all those clinic clients interested in having their tattoos removed.

When the request for proposal crossed the Clinic administration’s desk, everyone jumped at the opportunity to provide this service in our area. In May of 1998, the Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic received official notification from then Gov. **Pete Wilson’s** office that it was selected as the first Southern California site for the establishment of a community-based Tattoo Removal Program, resulting from the passage of Senate Bill 526 introduced by State Sen. **Tom Hayden**.

On Monday, Oct. 26, 1998, the Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic buzzed with excitement as Sen. Hayden made a personal appearance to launch the program.

Also present were members of the Peace Process Network, (a group of neighborhood activists who seek to increase the peace in their neighborhoods, schools, in youth correctional camps and in prisons). In addition, **James Barnett**, former Chief Deputy Director of the CYA, **Sharon English**, former Deputy Director for the CYA’s Office of Prevention and Victims Services, and Board and staff of the Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic joined the celebration.

Media were invited to observe and tape actual laser tattoo removal demonstrations performed by Dr. Popkow, which found their way onto

nightly television newscasts, as well as into print in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Los Angeles Independent*.

The target population for Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic’s Laser Tattoo Removal program is at-risk youth, ages 11 to 25. Youth are referred to the program via local probation officers, juvenile law enforcement personnel and clinic collaborating agencies. At-risk youth participants each commit to performing a minimum of 30 hours of community service before receiving the procedure. The target population is predominantly Latino (approximately 75%), with a substantial Asian population.

The program was a godsend to the community, according to clinic officials. Rampart and Northeast, the two Los Angeles Police Department Divisions whose territories are most closely serviced by the clinic, have the second and third highest incidents of gang-related crimes, respectively, according to the Central Bureau of the Los Angeles Police Department. They have among the highest concentrations of gang activity in the entire city.

“So many individuals need this service and, without our program, they could never afford to have these tattoos removed,” explains Clinic Medical Administrator **Celia Garza**. “For the majority of clients, this service allows them to re-enter mainstream society. But for some of them, it’s a life-saving service as well.”

“The youth whom we treat are very appreciative,” continues Garza. “They realize that some of their tattoos were big mistakes, and are grateful to have the opportunity to have them removed. For some young female clients, in particular, the tattoos are not only a barrier

to employment, but they are reminders of abusive relationships, so it’s very helpful for them emotionally as well.”

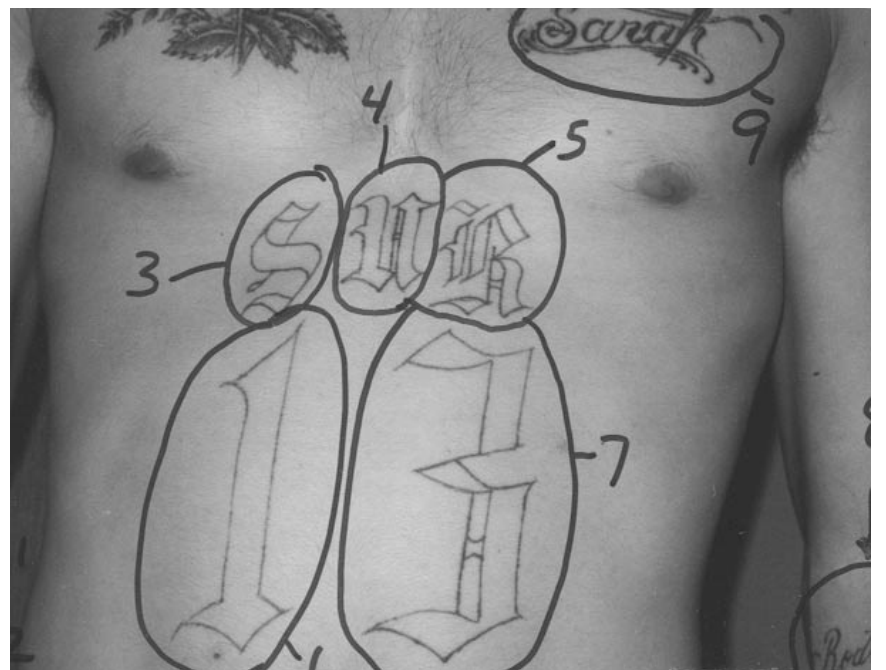
“A lot of our kids were having problems finding work—because of their tattoos many of them couldn’t even get into fast food places,” notes Central City Action Committee (CCAC) Executive Director **Maryanne Hayashi**.

“This is something we searched for years, and we could never provide it because of the cost,” continues Hayashi. “USC offered some pro bono tattoo removal on a very limited basis.

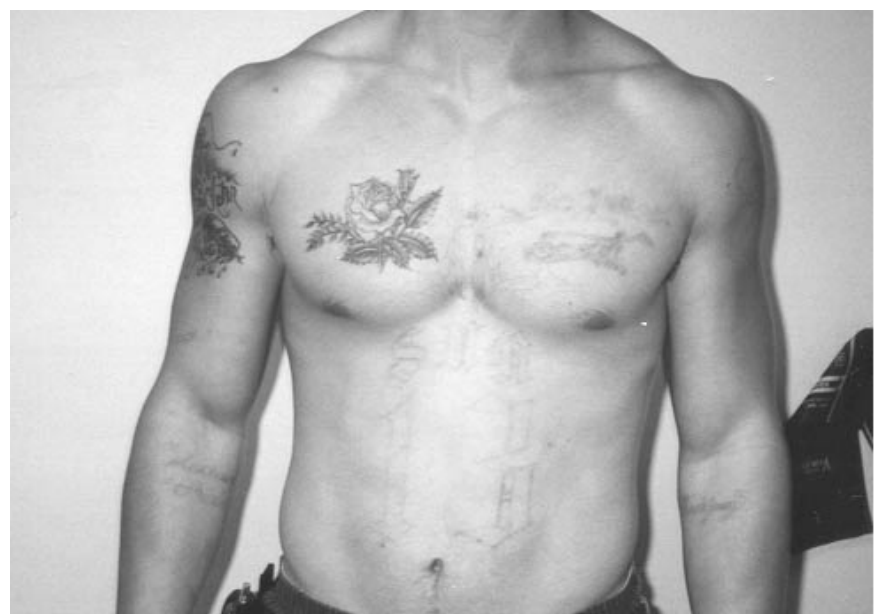
We would refer eight or 10 youth, but only one would get in because of the tremendous waiting lists.”

A long-time collaborating agency with Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic, CCAC is a non-profit agency serving poverty and low-income youth with comprehensive youth programs including tutoring, counseling, recreational programs, and community beautification and graffiti removal programs.

Although funding for the program from the California Youth Authority ended on June (See Now You See It, Page 12)



*Above is an example of the types of tattoos that display an offender’s gang affiliation. This is what the tattoos, many of them “homemade” look like before the laser treatment. Below is what the same juvenile looks like after all of the gang markings have been removed by the long process of laser treatment.*



# Tattoo Removal Program Helps Troubled Youth

By **Nancy Bryant Wallis**  
Director  
FHCS

Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCS) boasts San Diego's only formalized tattoo removal program, offering free tattoo removal services to adolescents and young adults ages 12 to 25.

The CYA, INTERFACE, and FHCS have joined forces to remove the barrier gang-related and offensive tattoos create for young people seeking employment opportunities and future success.

Youth requesting these tattoo removal services have recognized that tattoos — whether professionally applied or home-made — can hinder their educational, employment and social progress.

Armed with an ongoing plan for school, vocational training or employment, prospective program participants meet with a

project case manager, commit to a lengthy laser treatment process, and begin their required 24 hours of community service.

The project's success is linked to volunteer and grant-funded health care staff who offer three to four tattoo-removal clinic sessions each month. The tattoos can be removed via one of two medical procedures.

The laser removal process requires, on average, four to six clinical visits that are scheduled at least four to six weeks apart. The laser beam is directed to the "inked" skin with the resulting discomfort equaling that of the original tattoo.

Some tattoos can be surgically removed. Requiring one to two clinical visits, the tattoo is eliminated by an incision that removes the "inked" skin entirely.

Joining FHCS in this tattoo removal project is a group of physicians affiliated with INTERFACE.

INTERFACE is a volunteer program sponsored by the University of California at San Diego that assembles plastic surgeons and other medical specialists to help individuals locally and in developing countries access treatment for repair of deformities.

With slightly over \$44,000 in funding from the CYA, FHCS's Tattoo Removal Project began in July 1999. In its first year of operation, more than 230 young people began the process of removing their visible, offensive or gang-related tattoos. Fifty-five percent of the project participants have been female; the average age has been just under 21 years; and each participant has had an average of 4.7 tattoos.

Close to 100 additional youth also desire to remove the barrier of gang-related or offensive tattoos. They remain on a waiting list as the Tattoo Removal Project looks for ways

to both maintain and expand service delivery.

For more information about Family Health Centers of San Diego and its Tattoo Removal Project, contact Nancy Bryant Wallis, DrPH, LCSW at FHCS, 1809 National Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113, (619) 515-2366.

Family Health Centers of San Diego is a non-profit, community health center system. FHCS includes eight primary health care centers, a variety of school-based health services, and programs and projects serving children with special needs, adolescents, homeless persons, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. FHCS has served San Diego for nearly 30 years, and provided care to more than 63,000 patients in 1999. FHCS clinics are located in Barrio Logan, North Park, Downtown, Sherman Heights, Mission Beach, Spring Valley, and El Cajon.

## Now You See It...

Continued from Page 11

30, 2000, the clinic is able to continue to provide services for at least an additional year through a Memorandum of Understanding with the CYA.

In addition, the Los Angeles-area foundation community has stepped forward to support the efforts.

This past year the clinic received a grant of \$25,000 from the S. Mark Taper Foundation and a \$10,000 grant from the George Hoag Family Foundation to support the Community Laser Tattoo Removal Program. This will allow them to continue the program at full staffing through the end of this calendar

year. .

The Community Laser Tattoo Removal Program, funded by the CYA, has been an unqualified success, according to clinic officials.

For the two-year period of funding, from July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000, the program tallied the following numbers:

Community Service Hours Performed 13,470; Probono Hours Performed 6,778; Laser Treatments Performed 6,398; Complete Tattoos Removed 674; Clients treated 109 male and 151 female, for a total of 260.

## Tattoo Removal Program

In 1997, Senate Bill 526 (Hayden) was enacted, which required the California Youth Authority to purchase two laser tattoo removal machines. Through a competitive bid process the tattoo removal laser machines were awarded to Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic (Los Angeles) and San Francisco General Hospital. In 1998, a similar bill, Senate Bill 1700 (Hayden) was enacted which required the CYA to place tattoo removal programs in Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties.


The objective of the tattoo removal program is to enhance employment and educational opportunities for at-risk youth. In exchange for removing offensive or gang related tattoos free of charge, participants must be involved in constructive activities such as school, employment, vocational training and community service activities. It has been shown that by removing these tattoos and facilitating positive behavior, public safety is enhanced.


Dependent on several factors the average tattoo is removed in four to five laser sessions, with each session occurring on the average of five to six weeks apart. For males, tattoos are removed from the lower arm, hand, neck and head areas. For females, tattoos eligible for removal must be visible in a professional work environment.

The grant recipients have established partnerships that involve a collaboration of law enforcement, delinquency prevention agencies, local educators, and licensed health care professionals to aid in identification and referral of potential clients. Youth served through March 2000 is as follows: **Individuals served 631, Treatments 5,386, Tattoos removed 595.**

# Juvenile Violence and Crime Triples in the Hour Immediately After School

[www.preventviolence.org](http://www.preventviolence.org)





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